

# Sports a part of family



**Marge and Bert Davis**

By Toni Alison

Over one of the interior doors of Marge and Bert Davis' home is a plaque which reads, 'The family that prays together, stays together.' A worthy sentiment, no doubt; but, in the case of this particular family, a more appropriate inscription might read, 'The family that PLAYS together, stays together.' For, in the words of Marge herself, the Davis family - which now includes not only their own five children, but also 23 grandkids and nine great-grandkids - is "great for sports."

Mrs. Davis says she really can't remember when she hasn't been involved in some sport or another. "I was very athletic in school," she recalls, "softball, basketball, whatever was in season. Then when Bert and I got married, we'd hunt and fish together.

"Later, we'd take a big pasteboard box with us. We'd fish on the bank and leave the baby in the box. We've had a nice boat for twenty years now, but before that we tromped the river in hip boots.

"We'd take the kids hunting too. I remember one time we had to clear two feet of snow off the ground before we could set up."

"The boys were all in Little League," continues. "When they were young, we'd go to play ball with them. I didn't know much about baseball, so I just sat there and enjoyed it. I was in

flies for the boat camps. When the weather breaks and league bowling ends for the summer, he and Marge head for the shores of Deer Creek Reservoir where they keep their trailer.

"We can catch fish when no one else can," Marge chuckles. "Sometimes we'll come in with a mess of fish when no one else has caught anything. Folk'll come up and buy the flies right off our lines. Even though they know Bert has tied the ones that are for sale, they want the ones we're using. Even then, they often don't catch anything."

Fishing, hunting, team sports or one kind or another - the Davises have tried, and enjoyed, most everything. Such shared interests are bound to strengthen family relationships, as Marge is quick to affirm: "We still go camping," she adds, "and we make quite a caravan — with Bert's brother and his family and whichever of ours are along. But that's all right —



**The Davis's enjoying one of their many sports.**

her 'Heber Creeper' team just took first place in the city league tournament, and the 'make-up' team (members are drawn from various league teams) which represented Heber in the recent state tournament in Bountiful finished a very respectable fifth (over 350 teams participate in this event).

Bert has held an average of about 160 and recalls fondly his

that's part of what's kept us the close family we are."

Bert nods agreement as one of their daughters drops in for a quick visit.

**Midway  
clean up**

P-1-79 803  
Dr. R. Raymond Green  
P.O. Box 126  
Heber City, Utah 84032

# crease by 11.7 percent

in 1979-80 to \$946 per unit in 1980-81.

Foundation analysts point out that because of special programs and allowances there are about 25 percent more weighted pupil units than there are actual pupils attending Utah Schools. Consequently when costs are expressed in terms of actual pupils, the 1980-81 basic program will be equal to approximately \$1,167 per pupil in average daily attendance. Moreover, when allowances for transportation, employee retirement, voted leeway, and other operating costs not part of the

basic program also are included, total operating costs in Utah next year probably will exceed \$1,675 per pupil in average daily attendance.

In addition to the increases for operations, the 1980 Utah Legislature raised state appropriations for school building aid from \$13.2 million in 1979-80 to \$17,655,800 in 1980-81. However, because of rapidly rising school enrollments, state building formula entitlements had to be scaled back in order to conform with the funds made available.

The Foundation study notes that

the school finance law to permit all districts to divert funds from capital outlay levies to operating purposes. In the past only the Salt Lake City School District had been given this option.

Legislation passed in 1979 would have placed added statutory limits on the taxing power of school districts and other local units of government in 1980-81. When the 1980 Legislature failed to approve personal income and population estimates required by the limitation formula, the law became inoperative at least for this year.



# Wave

32 May 15, 1980 Issue 9

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